

# PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE HEART OF VIRGINIA

Serving the counties of  
Amelia, Buckingham,  
Charlotte, Cumberland,  
Lunenburg, Nottoway, and  
Prince Edward

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## NEWSWORTHY

### NATION/STATE

#### ACIP recommendations for Influenza vaccine (taken from CDC's MMWR RR-6, 7/13/07)

"Principal updates and changes include 1) reemphasizing the importance of administering 2 doses of vaccine to all children aged 6 months-8 years if they have not been vaccinated previously at any time with either live, attenuated influenza vaccine (doses separated by >6 weeks) or trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (doses separated by >4 weeks), with single annual doses in subsequent years; 2) recommending that children aged 6 months-8 years who received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination receive 2 doses the following year, with single annual doses in subsequent years; and 6) using the 2007-2008 trivalent vaccine virus strains A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1)-like (new for this season), A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like antigens"

#### West Nile Virus in Virginia

This year, there has been one case of human West Nile Virus (WNV), a resident in Northern Virginia. The June 26th onset date makes it the first recorded WNV case on the East Coast United States this year. There are 122 cases nationwide in 19 states so far this year.

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## SPOTLIGHT: BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

According to the CDC, meningococcal disease occurs between 1,400-2,800 times annually.\* Approximately half of these are invasive infections. *Neisseria meningitidis*, a gram-negative diplococcus, has overtaken *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b as the leading causative agent of bacterial meningitis. *N. meningitidis* has 13 serogroups, including A, B, C, Y, and W-135.

There are over 600 invasive *N. meningitidis* infections nationwide, to date. Virginia has seen 10 cases, which is slightly less than last year's figures. There have been no confirmed cases in the Piedmont Health District this year. Confirmation includes isolation

of the agent, typically from blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

In 2005, a quadrivalent meningococcal polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccine (MCV4) was licensed for use among 11-55 year olds. The most recently revised recommendation for vaccination using MCV4 was issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in June 2007. This recommendation includes routine vaccination to all persons aged 11-18 years with 1 dose of MCV4 as early as possible, a slight modification to the previous recommendation.

College freshmen in dormitories are at increased risk for meningococcal disease and therefore most colleges and universities have required all incoming students to get the vaccine from a healthcare professional.

With early diagnosis and proper treatment, the fatality rate is less than 10%. Meningococcal disease is a 24-hour rapidly reportable disease in the state of Virginia. Because of the severity of this disease, the Virginia Department of Health states that "it is important to identify close contacts and provide prophylaxis immediately, without delay. Laboratory confirmation of the serogroup is also important for the determination of public health policy in situations in which multiple cases occur."

\* MMWR 54(RR-7) 5/25/05.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE 2007

### Reported Diseases for July 2007:

3 unrelated cases of  
Salmonellosis (age range  
3-79 years old)

4 clinically diagnosed  
cases of chickenpox (age  
range 3-5 years old)

1 probable case of Ehrlichiosis

2 elevated lead blood  
levels in children

1 positive rabid animal  
(skunk) with no human  
exposure

### Year to Date Analysis of Selected Communicable Diseases for Piedmont Health District

